

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CU-04 HEW-08 SIL-01 LAB-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 COME-00 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-20

EB-11 RSR-01 /149 W

----- 115039

R 191440 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9199

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 3161

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: TEACHERS STRIKE CONTINUES AND EXPANDS

REF: LAGOS 3106

1. SUMMARY: ALL NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES ARE NOW SNDERGOING INDUSTRIAL ACTION. EXTENT PARTICIPATION STILL VARIES, BUT APPARENTLY NO CLASSES ARE BEING HELD AT ANY CAMPUS. FOUR OF SIX UNIVERSITIES HAVE CLOSED CAMPUSES AND ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO GO HOME. THERE WAS BRIEF OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE AT UNILAGOS APRIL 18. FMG INCLINED TO GET TOUGH WITH STRIKERS, BUT COMPROMISE -- PERHAPS AFTER LONG STANDOFF -- IS MOST LIKELY OUTCOME. END SUMMARY

2. MILITANTS TRIUMPHED AT RALLY OF STRIKING TEACHERS ON UNILAGT CAMPUS EVENING APRIL 17. BY ACCLAMATION STRIFE IS TO CONTINUE UNTIL WAGE AND BENEFIT DEMANDS ARE MET. NO CONFIDENCE VOTE GIVEN TO NAUT PRESIDENT FAGBEMI FOR ATTEMPTING CALL OFF STRIKE, AND FOR TIME BEING LOCAL BRANCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NAUT APPEARS TO HAVE NO CONTROL OVER PROCEEDINGS AT UNILAG. A PROFESSOR ADETUGBO WAS AMONG MORE MILITANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEAKERS AT RALLY AND IS EMERGING AS LEADER PRO TEM OF LAGOS STRIKERS. UNIVERSITY SERVICE PERSONNEL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE

AND TECHNICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION AND FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITIES WORKERS UNIONS HAVE JOINED STRIKE. THIS HAS CAUSED SHUT-DOWN OF EATING AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS. ON APRIL 18, VICE CHANCELLOR OF UNILAG PUT STUDENTS "ON LEAVE" UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, SUGGESTING THAT THEY RETURN HOME UNTIL CRISIS IS OVER. BEGINNING MORNING APRIL 19 POLICE BLOCKED CAMPUS, ALLOWING ONLY MEMBERS GOVERNING UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TO ENTER. CAMPUS POWER PLANT FAILED NIGHT APRIL 17. ATTEMPT TO BRING IN ECN TECHNICIANS TO RESTORE SERVICE MORNING APRIL 18 LED TO STONE THROWING BY NON- ACADEMIC STAFF STRIKERS AND STRIKERS' DISPERSAL BY BATON- WIELDING POLICE. NEWSPAPERS REPORT FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS ON OTHER CAMPUSES.

3. UNIVERSITY IBADAN TEACHERS ON STRIKE AND NON- ACADEMIC WORKERS ENGAGED IN "GO SLOW". STUDENTS DIRECTED TO COOK OWN MEALS AND UNABLE TAKE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED BEGIN

APRIL 17. PRESIDENT IBADAN BRANCH NAUT RESIGNED. SECRETARY OF NAUT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, PROFESSOR OLA ONI, IS LOCATED AT IBADAN AND HAS BECOME ORGANIZATION SPOKESMAN FOLLOWING NAUT BREAKDOWN IN LAGOS. HE ISSUED STATEMENT APRIL 18 CALLING FOR FMG TO ACCEPT IMMEDIATE UPGRADING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND RESTORATION ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY OF UNIVERSITIES. HE ALSO CALLED FOR NATIONWIDE MEETING NAUT REPRESENTATIVES IN IBADAN APRIL 19. HE WAS BRIEFLY DETAINED AND RELEASED BY POLICE ON APRIL 18.

4. LOCAL NAUT BRANCH NSUKKA JOINED STRIKE APRIL 18, FOLLOWING HESITATION OVER "IMPRECISE" INSTRUCTIONS FROM CENTRAL ORGANIZATION. NO REPORTS ON POSITION NON- ACADEMIC STAFF OR STUDENTS.

5. UNIVERSITY BENIN TEACHING AND NON- ACADEMIC STAFF STRUCK APRIL 17, LEAVING STUDENTS WITHOUT LIVING FACILITIES. VICE-CHANCELLOR DECLARED EASTER HOLIDAYS EXTENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND SUGGESTED STUDENTS GO HOME.

6. ABU AT ZARIA CLOSED BY STRIKE. DORMITORY STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN MONEY TO GO HOME PLUS REFUND ON MEAL TICKETS UNTIL SCHOOL RESUMES.

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7. UNIVERSITY AT IFE CLOSED ALL DEPARTMENTS AND DORMITORIES AT SIX P. M. APRIL 18, STUDENTS REQUESTED TO GO HOME AND PROVIDED FIVE NAIRA EACH FOR TRANSPORTATION. POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO CAMPUS.

8. STUDENT OPINION STILL MUTED. LAGOS UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT TOLD DAILY EXPRESS THAT ENTIRE STUDENT BODY SOLIDLY BEHIND STRIKERS. UNVERIFIED RUMORS CIRCULATE AMONG

UNILAG STRIKERS THAT POST AND TELEGRAPH AND UNSPECIFIED
OTHE UNIONS WILL SEIZE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY TEACHERS'
STRIKE TO REOPEN THEIR UNSATISFIED WAGE DEMANDS. (25 P& T
UNION LEADERS STILL ON BAIL AWAITING TRIAL FOR INDUSTRIAL
ACTION LAST NOVEMBER).

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CU-04 HEW-08 SIL-01 LAB-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 COME-00 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-20

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R 191440 Z APRIL73

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9. NEW NIGERIAN EDITORIAL APRIL 19 IS MODERATE IN TONE, BUT
LAYS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRIKE ON FMG BUNGLING. IT
NOTES ALSO, HOWEVER, THAT FMG CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE IN TO
STRIKERS' WAGE DEMANDS, WHICH WOULD LEAVE ITS " PAY PAUSE
POLICY (WAGE FREEZE) IN TATTERS". EDITORIAL WARNS IN CON-
CLUSION THAT " MINOR MATTERS HAVE A TENDENCY TO GET OUT OF
HAND AND THIS MAY WELL HAPPEN NOW IF THE FMG OVER- REACTS".
OTHER EDITORIALS UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMN STRIKERS AND CALL FOR
IMMEDIATE END TO STRIKE, ALTHOUGH TRIBUNE CHARACTERISTICALLY
USES OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO CHASTIZE GOVERNMENT " BLUNDERING".

10. COMMENT: ALL SIX OF NIGERIA'S UNIVERSITIES NOW UNDER-
GOING INDUSTRIAL ACTION, WITH SOME THREAT OF VIOLENCE
PARTICULARLY BY NON- ACADEMIC STAFF. FEAR OF FMG OVER- REACTION
IS WELL TAKEN. REPORTS ARE THAT TOP LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING
GOWON, FEEL THAT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LENIENT WITH TEACHERS
BY NOT DEMANDING REFUND OF PREVIOUS UNSANCTIONED FRINGE
BENEFITS, AND WILL NOT TOLERATE CHALLENGE TO WAGE FREEZE.
OLA' S DEMAND FOR INCREASE UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY FROM GOVERNMENT
ALSO HIGHLY DISPLEASING TO FMG. ADDING TO DILEMMA IS
IRREPLACIBILITY OF TEACHERS, REAL POSSIBILITY OF STUDENT- TEACHER
COMMON CAUSE AGAINST GOVERNMENT (WHICH SOME UNIVERSITIES

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OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO FORESTALL BY SENDING STUDENTS HOME),
AND REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER PUBLIC SECTORS MAY JOIN
WITH TEACHERS IN ATTEMPT TO BREAK WAGE FREEZE. DESPITE
ILLEGALITY STRIKE ACTION, IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW GOVT CAN
FORCE TEACHERS TO WORK, AND SENDING PROFESSORS TO JAIL
WOULD BE UNPOPULAR AND EMBARRASSING MOVE. BARRING SUSTAINED
VIOLENCE OR RAPID COLLING- OFF OVER EASTER HOLIDAYS
AND SUBSEQUENT COMPROMISE, STANDOFF COULD LEAD TO PROTRACTED
CLOSING OF UNIVERSITIES. OLA'S ATTEMPT REASSERT NAUT
AUTHORITY OVER STRIKERS WILL FACILITATE COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT
IF IT IS SUCCESSFUL.
REINHARDT

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